Literacy B.C NEWSLETTER

September 1998 Volume 4, No. 4

Two Flight for Freedom Awards Land at Literacy B.C.

Literacy B.C. and Board member Kelly Sinclair win 1998 Canada Post Awards!

Literacy Leadership

Literacy B.C. has been honoured for "long-term achievement, innovation, leadership and organizational excellence."

We are one of 12 provincial and territorial organizations receiving recognition this year from Canada Post with a Literacy Leadership Award. The award comes with a computer system.

Paul Gallagher, President of Literacy B.C., says, "I think this is an enormous recognition and something of which we can all be very proud. But we want to share this distinction with the whole literacy community in B.C."

We are especially proud to share this award with our members who are the heart and soul of our organization.

Special thanks go out to Vancouver Community College and, in particular, President John Cruikshank, for the nomination.

The nomination states in part, "Literacy B.C.'s leadership and innovation has had a significant impact on the literacy field. As the province's "one-stop" literacy resource, Literacy B.C. has helped thousands of adult learners and provided information, consultation and referral services to countless other individuals and organizations who would not otherwise have access to this support."

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Activities cited in our nomination include:

- ☐ our key role in supporting learners
- ☐ our comprehensive information, consultation and referral service
- ☐ our grass-roots initiatives in coordinating regional activity
- ☐ our leading role in providing professional development for literacy practitioners
- ☐ our successful efforts to raise public awareness and influence public policy
- ☐ our strong partnership-building.

Individual Literacy Achievement

Literacy B.C. board member Kelly Sinclair is the B.C. recipient of this award, which recognizes "the achievement of individuals who have succeeded in overcoming social or economic barriers caused by lack of literacy skills."

We have met and talked to thousands of learners in the course of our work. Many have experienced the same kinds of challenges Kelly has faced. But few have dedicated themselves as Kelly has, to helping others overcome problems with basic skills. That's why we nominated Kelly for this award. From all of us at Literacy B.C., congratulations, Kelly!

Kelly says, "The award increases my opportunities to speak to schools and groups of students about literacy, trades training and workplace training. This gives me the opportunity to reach out to younger Canadians and tell them there is hope -- that literacy is the key to freedom."

Kelly has been a Literacy B.C. board member since 1995 and is the Director of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Union Local 2000 Training Centre in New Westminster. The UFCW delivers basic skills training programs that are recognized across the country for their quality and innovation.

The award comes with a computer system which Kelly will use for work-related initiatives at the UFCW.

The Difference Courage Makes

Kelly Sinclair's Story

Nominees for Kelly's award wrote a newspaper-style article to convince someone who may be in a similar situation that they should take the steps necessary to improve their literacy skills. Here are parts of Kelly's story.

... At age 11 or 12 I started living on the streets, eating other people's food, sleeping in friends' garages. School was, well, a sometimes thing. I don't know how I managed to complete my grade 9, I could barely read or write; I just kind of went through the motions. Then at 14, I was on my own, just me and the world. One big dead-end world...

...in my early 20's, I got involved in martial arts. Kung Fu taught me about fear and about overcoming it. I had to think, plan, be strategic-- or get beaten. I didn't get beaten often. ....I discovered I had more in me than failure. I began to understand that learning was the key to finding it. But learning meant confronting some other, deeper fears. As intense as it was, the fear of getting beaten in competition was nothing to the fear I felt when I had to read or write something....Reading and writing reduced me to the loser I had always been.

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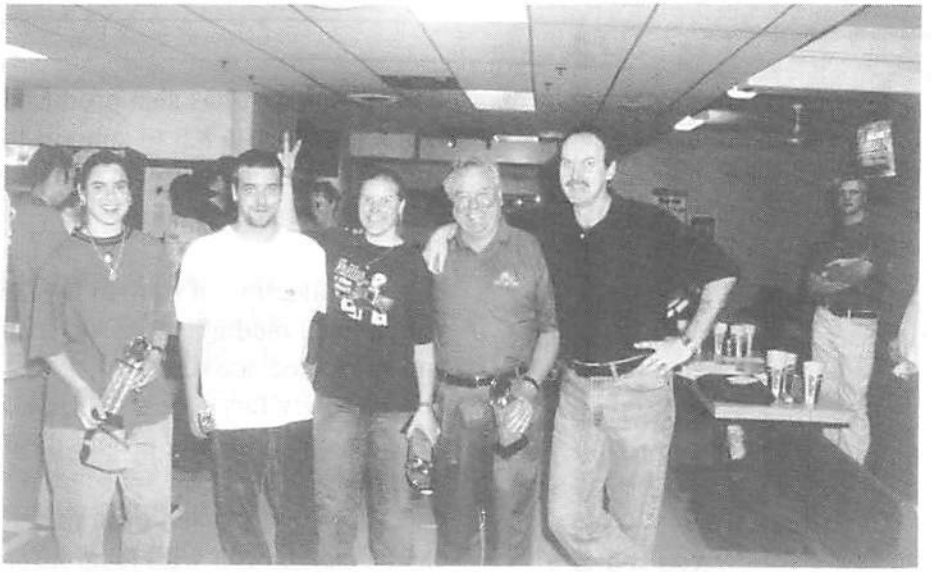


Kelly Sinclair (right) with friends from the UFCW

Something in me wanted to learn. I started trying to read again -- but struggled to actually comprehend the words in front of me. Eventually, I mustered the courage to go back to school. Although I struggled with writing -- and still do -- my reading improved. I began to comprehend more and more of what I read. I got hooked on reading.

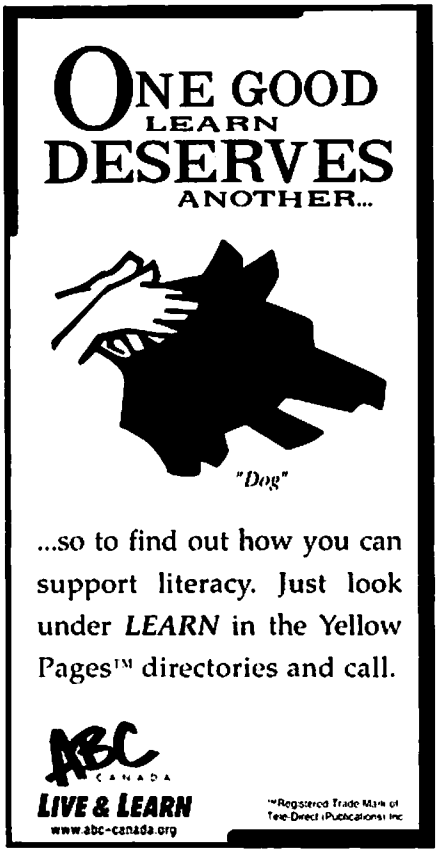
...Eventually I became the UFCW Local 2000's Apprenticeship Training Coordinator. In my new position I quickly discovered I had to read and write at a higher level .. I would have to further upgrade my skills to do the job. With mentoring from my boss, tutoring from my peers and support from Literacy B.C., my reading comprehension, and more challenging still, my writing ability improved. It wasn't easy. The first federal government proposal... should have taken four days to write. It took me two months!

As difficult as it was, I learned something very important through that process. I learned that having a problem with basic skills has nothing to do with intelligence. The fact that we can cope at all means we have to be pretty bright. We learn how to find strategies that other people never do. For me, that meant retaining key words and concepts -- and that led to having a very retentive memory. Now, I can not only read and comprehend complicated documents, I can hone in on key points -- and retain them -- better than many people who never had a basic skills problem.

...I can relate to the people who go through our programs. I've been where they are now. I let them know that. I tell them my story. I let them know I understand they're fearful -- and that that's OK. ...

...You know, I'm no great success. There won't be monuments to me when I die. But I take pride in some of the things I've been able to do. And they all go back to overcoming my fears and demons enough to upgrade my basic skills and embrace lifelong learning. That's what kept me from the toxic, dead-end skid row world I thought was my destiny. Today, I've got a good income, a nice house, a family I love and two kids who have a better start than I could have ever hoped to give them.... Most important of all, I'm helping others make a difference in their own lives.

That's the difference courage makes. □



A national print media public awareness campaign from ABC CANADA -- called **LIVE & LEARN** -- got underway in B.C. this spring.

The **LIVE & LEARN** campaign uses a series of magazine and newspaper ads built around the phrase, "one good learn deserves another." The idea is to encourage people to support literacy organizations. Readers are asked to help non-readers by finding out how they can help a literacy group in their community.

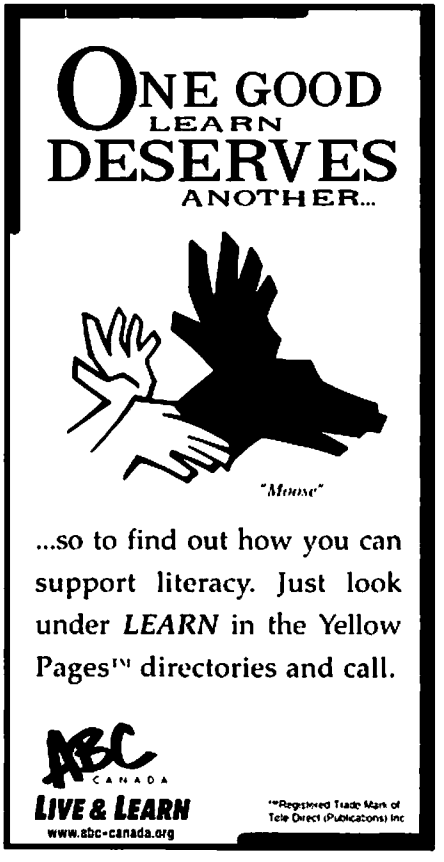
LIVE & LEARN ads have appeared in publications such as *Saturday Night, Reader's Digest* and *TV Times.*

In B.C., the ads direct people to the Literacy B.C. toll-free information and referral line.

ABC CANADA has also produced a Literacy Awareness Media Kit to support the efforts of community literacy organizations across Canada. The kit includes:

- a collection of how-to tips and tools, with a local media list, PSA's, media releases and suggested activities
- literacy fact sheets for speaking engagements, funding proposals and dealing with the media
- audio, video and print materials that can be customized with local information for use by the media.

Kits were distributed to community literacy groups and regional literacy coordinators in B.C. during the summer.



ABC CANADA Seeks Executive Director

ABC CANADA is a national non-profit organization that supports the development of a fully literate Canadian population. Our Board of Directors are senior leaders from business, labour and education.

We are looking for a dynamic, creative and experienced manager and leader to head up our Toronto office of seven staff. Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Executive Director must:

- act as a spokesperson and ambassador for ABC CANADA and the literacy cause
- raise funds from a variety of sources, develop marketing and business strategies to generate public awareness and funds for the literacy cause
- have strong interpersonal skills, be a team builder, have an entrepreneurial spirit, and the flexibility to work with diverse people and organizations.

This is a busy position in a small and very active literacy organization. A good nature, sense of humour, and ability to learn quickly are definite assets in this job.

Fax resume by end of day October 13, 1998 to:

Gill Howard, Chair, Search Committee (416) 442-2293.

No phone calls please.

Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. We are an equal opportunity employer.

We're Moving!

Literacy B.C. is moving down the hall to larger office space.
As of October 1, we will be located in **Suite 601**. Please change your mailing list to ensure we stay in touch. Our phone and fax numbers will remain the same.

Our new address:
601 -- 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C
V6B 1L8

Our office will be closed September 28-October 2. We will return all calls left on our answering machine as soon as we can.

Who we are

Our mission is to support literacy learners, to develop community partnerships, and to present a united voice on literacy. We are supported by the B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology; Human Resources Development Canada, The National Literacy Secretariat; memberships and donations.

Here's how you can reach us:

Literacy B.C.
601- 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 1L8
Phone: 1-800-663-1293 toll free in B.C.
(604) 684-0624 in the Lower Mainland
Fax: (604) 684-8520
Email: literacy_bc@douglas.bc.ca
WWW: http://www.nald.ca/lbc.htm

Donations to Literacy B.C. are tax deductible.

Farewell to Jim Page

Jim Page, Executive Secretary of the National Literacy Secretariat since 1994, left the NLS this summer for a new job with the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Canada.

As of June 15, Jim has been the Director General of the Learning Programmes Branch of the PSC. In June, Jim sent a farewell letter to friends and colleagues in literacy across the country. Here is part of his letter.

National Literacy Secretariat *Le Secrétariat national à l'alphabétisation*

A lot has happened in these four years and the NLS and the literacy community, working together, have accomplished a great deal.....We held policy conversations on new technologies and literacy, on workplace literacy, and on literacy research. We developed a research framework for the NLS; advanced electronic infrastructure developments; encouraged further resource centre developments; released three major reports from the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) with Statistics Canada and/or the OECD; sponsored a major OECD-wide policy conference on literacy; launched a series of IALS-related monographs; and established bilateral working relations with Britain, France and the U.S. to cite a few examples.

... Perhaps our most important achievements have been to keep the Secretariat on an even keel throughout two cycles of government programme reviews, to manage the 1995 evaluation of the NLS, and to secure new funding for workplace literacy, family literacy and for literacy research and infrastructure in the 1997 budget.

You might well ask why I am leaving the Secretariat. The simple answer is that I have always believed that managers arrive on the job with a "best before" date stamped on their foreheads. (If you look closely you can see it, near the temple, right next to the universal product bar code.) In every new job the initial challenges and consequent steep learning curve always push adrenaline through every creative fibre a manager has. But when the curve starts to flat-line, as it inevitably must, there is a danger of growing stale, even worse, of holding back an organization which must thrive on new ideas and on creatively exploiting every possibility. Managers, then, are "best before" they grow stale. And so when I began to realize that my learning curve had started to flatten, I turned my attention to moving on because I think it best both for the NLS as an organization and for me as a public service manager.

From all of us at Literacy B.C., good-bye and thank you, Jim, for your outstanding leadership and dedication ...we'll miss you.

10 years of literacy partnerships in B.C.

On September 8, the Ministry of Advanced Education Training and Technology (MAETT) and the National Literacy Secretariat (NLS) jointly announced funding of $900,000 for B.C. for the 1998-99 literacy cost-shared program.

This year's cost-shared announcement caps a decade of innovative literacy partnerships. For 10 years, the NLS has partnered with the provinces and territories to reach people with literacy difficulties.

In B.C., over $14 million in joint federal and provincial grants has been provided for literacy projects in B.C. through this program. This year's announcement brings the total number of grants provided in B.C. since 1987-88 to more than 475.

This year, the program will support 89 initiatives, including three Literacy Corps projects, for a total of $1,852,908. Funded initiatives include: tutoring programs, public awareness campaigns, curriculum and professional development activities, research, work in aboriginal communities and family literacy.

In February 1997, the federal budget provided for an increase of funds to the NLS -- the first since it was fully formed in 1988. These funds were allocated to family literacy initiatives in B.C. This year, it is hoped that additional ongoing funds from the province will match last year's federal increase, says Audrey Thomas, Education Officer, Developmental Programs, Colleges and Program Planning Branch, MAETT.

Until 1996-97 most projects were funded on a 50/50 basis: half of the project funding came from the NLS and the other half from the B.C. government.

After a consultation in the fall of 1995 with the literacy field, several recommendations were implemented for the 1996-97 year. Provincial funds could be redirected to program delivery projects for community tutoring programs, for example, and for support of the regional coordination initiative. At the same time, continued funding was affirmed for province-wide activities such as the services provided by Literacy B.C., the Literacy Materials Bulletin and the Learners Talking to Learners events.

For more information on the B.C. literacy cost-shared program, contact:

Audrey Thomas
Education Officer, Developmental Programs
Colleges and Program Planning Branch
Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology
Phone: (250) 387-6174
Fax: (250) 952-6110
email: Audrey.Thomas@gems5.gov.bc.ca

Call us for a complete listing of this year's (1998-99) B.C literacy cost-shared projects (Contacts and Goals). Phone: 1-800-663-1293.

Summer Literacy Institute

by Jean Rasmussen, Projects Manager

Volunteer Tutor Coordinator Training class

More than 100 people gathered in July at Simon Fraser University on Burnaby Mountain to take part in an exciting professional development event for literacy and ABE practitioners.

Literacy B.C.'s **1998 Summer Literacy Institute** offered practitioners the opportunity to undertake in-depth training, network with colleagues, share ideas and discuss critical issues related to literacy practice. Participants came from western Canada, the territories, Ontario and Las Vegas.

The two-week Institute offered five courses on the following topics: family literacy, volunteer tutor coordinator training, literacy development and action research. Afternoon workshops took place on disability issues, prior learning assessment, phonological awareness, literacy promotion and networking in cyberspace. The final report will be distributed this fall.

We asked participants to evaluate their experience on the mountain this summer. Here's a sample:

√ ***It exceeded my expectations. I had few expectations but was blown away by the scope of the participants and the depth of experience and knowledge. What I learned after-hours through networking was profound.***

√ ***It was definitely a group activity. The opportunity to network was there in the courses, workshops, during meals, at social events and in the group accommodation.***

√ ***I was able to hear about many different programs being initiated as well as programs in place. I now know who to phone and where to go to learn more or to bounce ideas around.***

√ ***I am "fired up" now with new ideas, plans, and motivation, and plan to share it when I get back to my community.***

√ ***I will apply the skills either directly in my own classroom and/or share them with other adult educators. I will compile information to develop my own tutor training workshop instead of "winging it."***

√ ***I will use the skills I learned in action research to address problems in my work and to enhance the way I do my work. I came away from my course with a plan for an action research project and research "friends" to support and help me with my project. It's exciting!***

√ ***The week was an exceptional learning experience and an excellent networking opportunity. I am pleased to have had the chance to participate in the Summer Literacy Institute. Thank you!***

From the Heart .... A Tribute to Audrey Thomas

As part of our 1998 Summer Literacy Institute, Literacy B.C. proudly hosted ***From the Heart -- a Tribute to Audrey Thomas and her lifelong devotion to literacy***. A reception and dinner were held at the Diamond University Club at SFU on July 23. Friends and colleagues from across B.C. joined in celebrating Audrey's contributions to literacy.

We invited a long-time friend of Audrey's to share her perceptions of the tribute. Diane Kirby is Coordinator of the Reading and Parenting Project (RAPP), Project Literacy Victoria, and has known Audrey for many years.

---

by Diane Kirby

We don't often get the chance to tell people what we feel about them while they are with us. So I felt very lucky to be part of the tribute to Audrey at Simon Fraser University on July 23. It was a beautiful warm night on top of a mountain overlooking the hills and water around Vancouver. People from all over came to celebrate Audrey's lifelong devotion to literacy and to share the evening with her.

There were letters from Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Premier Glen Clark, and other wellwishers. There were speeches from good friends and admirers. One thing that sticks out in my mind is the comparison guest speaker Allan Quigley made between Audrey and a lion --- not a savage wild animal, but a noble leader with the strength of beliefs and knowledge. Her power comes from such strength and leadership, and the world is indeed lucky to have Audrey on the side of literacy.

With good cheer, good food, good friends, and presents too, we wished Audrey all the best in her continued devotion to literacy. I was glad to be there to share the evening, and look forward to more such celebrations.

Audrey at the head table on July 23 with Allan Quigley, instructor of the Action Research course at the Institute. Allan is an Associate Professor of Adult Education at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

CANADA

PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

July 23, 1998

Dear Ms. Thomas:

I am delighted to offer you my warmest greetings and congratulations as you are honoured by Literacy B.C. for your contributions to adult literacy in Canada.

For over 25 years, you have demonstrated an unflagging commitment to literacy in Canada, making you truly deserving of this special recognition. I am sure that your example serves as an inspiration to us all, and that this tribute reflects indeed the high esteem in which you are held by your fellow citizens. Your good will and dedication to the literacy movement and community development are recognized and deeply appreciated by all those who value education in our country.

I know I join with your family and many friends in wishing you the very best on this special occasion, as well as continued health, happiness and success in meeting the challenges of the future.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Chrétien

Ms. Audrey Thomas

From the Heart .....A Tribute to Audrey Thomas

July 23, 1998

Dear Audrey,

I am truly sorry that I am unable to be at your dinner tonight and add my cheers and tears to all the others from those who admire you so much.

When I reflect on how our paths have crossed over the years I am so thankful that you chose to champion the cause of literacy as a true pioneer. Not only has your research and material set a standard of service development all across our country, but your work through Literacy B.C. and Frontier College has helped thousands of learners to reach goals that have changed their lives.

The Government of British Columbia has demonstrated its continuing commitment to the advancement of literacy with your recent appointment. All of us know that the linkages between provincial governments and the federal level through the National Literacy Secretariat are absolutely critical to maintaining high visibility for this issue on the national agenda. In my view, every government should have an "Audrey" in its system!

Most important of all are the friendships you have fostered, the confidences you have built, the trust you have developed with all of us who have been privileged to work with you.

I firmly believe that all the expertise one can muster falls short without a heart, and your heart, Audrey, has touched us all. I speak, not just for myself, but for your friends in the NLS and the federal government, in congratulating you for all your achievements past and still to come, and thanking you for being our partner and friend.

May the future bring you much happiness, good health and continued success for the cause in which both of us believe so strongly.

All good wishes,
Joyce
Hon. Joyce Fairbairn
The Senate of Canada

... Would you like to network in cyberspace?

What is the B.C. literacy electronic network - "The Hub" - and how can you connect to it?

The B.C. literacy electronic network connects over 100 practitioners, programs and learners from across B.C. Using FirstClass email and conferencing software, participants on the network communicate; share information, ideas, and resources; and conference on topics in literacy.

Current conferences on the network include: an ongoing family literacy conference; a Bulletin Board of new literacy resources; a learners' forum; and a conference on tutor training (see next page). Conferences on workforce literacy and literacy research, among others, are also planned to begin soon. As well, there is an opportunity to use the network to facilitate group or committee work and regional networking.

The project is funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology and the National Literacy Secretariat. It is managed by Literacy B.C. in partnership with Capilano College.

You can access the network for $100 per year. To connect, you also require a computer with modem and a direct Internet connection.

For further information, contact Sandy Middleton at Literacy B.C.
Phone: 1-800-663-1293 or (604) 684-0624
Fax: (604) 684-8520
email: s_middleton@douglas.bc.ca

Here's what participants from different regions of the province have to say about their experience on "The Hub."

All conferences have been interesting and valuable in two ways: access to ideas and information about literacy programs and resources; feeling connected to a group of practitioners- from novice to "old pro."
Okanagan

It allows me to get a window into how others are working. It makes me feel less isolated to know there are others struggling with the same issues. I also get excited reading other people's ideas on how to deal with these issues.
Northwest

The Hub has provided an excellent way to keep in contact with others in the literacy field. An informed sounding board is essential to people in more rural areas. I have saved countless dollars in travel and long distance. It has provided access to ideas, resources and information that can be taken into my community.
Sunshine Coast

The Hub makes me feel more connected to a larger community and widens my vision considerably.
East Kootenays

This has proven to be a fantastic tool....it's a quick, efficient way to exchange information and ideas.
Vancouver Island

Let's talk tutoring -- an on-line conference

Mark your calendars! A six-week inter-provincial, electronic conference starts September 28 on the B.C. literacy electronic network or "The Hub." The topic is **Volunteer Tutor Training**. Through an electronic gateway, practitioners and tutors from both B.C. and Alberta will meet on-line to generate ideas and share experiences and information about the recruitment, selection, training, and support of volunteer literacy tutors.

The electronic conference will be moderated from both sides of the Rockies. **Diana Twiss of Capilano College** in North Vancouver and **Maureen Sanders of Prospects Literacy Association** in Edmonton will lead the discussion. Whether you have a great deal of experience, or you are new to this work, we invite your participation.

Some of the questions the conference will address include:

√ How do you recruit and screen volunteer tutors?
√ What do your training sessions and materials look like?
√ How do you provide ongoing support and training to tutors?
√ What problems have you had working with volunteer tutors? How have you overcome them?

The conference will also include extensive information about tutor training resources and let you know how you can borrow or purchase them. For more information, contact **Sandy Middleton at Literacy B.C.**

We asked Diana Twiss to tell us about her experience on "The Hub:"

I bake my own bread, make my own preserves and knit mittens for my kids. I have a general fear of becoming dependent upon any form of technology, but in the last while I have become a computer junkie. I have been lured into the seductive communications network called The Hub. My reasons are simple and self-serving. I work full-time as a college literacy instructor. I have three children, 11 chickens, 2 gardens and a husband who is a musician. Each moment of my day is filled with activity. Where is the time for communication with my colleagues, networking, and professional development? Enter The Hub.

The Hub gives me numerous opportunities to "meet" other people in the literacy world. From The Hub, I can ask questions, get answers, find resources, and keep up-to-date on the literacy gossip. The Hub doesn't require any advanced knowledge of computers. If you can read and use a keyboard, you can make use of the Hub.

The Hub has given me a feeling of connectedness beyond my college, beyond my students, and beyond my colleagues. And I can do all that from my little computer in my cozy house when the time suits me.

Diana Twiss

More from Literacy B.C. ....THANK YOU Donors!

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who have donated $100 or more to Literacy B.C.

Breen Egan, Deanna Sordi
Canadian Airlines

And to those who have contributed up to $100

Barbara Ash, Patti Bateman, Christine Cooper, Brenda Elmore, Sharon Forbrigger, Anne Knott, Basha Rahn, Mary Selman, Lorinda Vogt, Newcastle College, Employees of the Justice Institute of B.C.

Special thanks to Canadian Airlines

Literacy B.C. would like to express special appreciation to **Canadian Airlines International employees** for contributing proceeds from their second "Reading is Fun" event to Literacy B.C. We gratefully acknowledge this generous donation.

The **CBC Radio Cabaret with Peter Gzowski** was held at the Vogue Theatre in Vancouver on May 13, 1998. This special evening of music and words raised $2000 for Literacy B.C. Thankyou to everyone!

Thankyou to U.S. book publishers Jossey-Bass for their recent donation of books for a display at our Summer Literacy Institute

...and **Audrey Thomas** has generously donated a number of books from her personal collection to Literacy B.C. **Thank you Audrey!**

8th annual PGI raises over $40,000 for Literacy B.C.

On July 9th, 200 golfers, celebrities and guests joined host Peter Mansbridge at University Golf Club for a splendid day of golf, music, poetry, prizes and hilarious stories.

The day's big winner was Literacy B.C. The tournament raised more than $40,000 for our literacy programs.

The PGI Tournament would not have happened without the generous support and efforts of many corporate and individual donors. Literacy B.C. and the PGI Tournament would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all participants, volunteers, supporters and the following sponsors:

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A warm and special thank you to our host, Peter Mansbridge and to all of our celebrity golfers

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Yee Mah

Tournament Photographer
Ryan McNair

The PGIs gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the National Literacy Secretariat and ABC CANADA

Meet our President, Paul Gallagher

Paul Gallagher has been President of Literacy B.C. since October 1997. Paul has a long and distinguished career in education. He has been CEO of Dawson College in Montreal, Capilano College in North Vancouver and Vancouver Community College. He also directed the B.C. Human Resource Development Project from 1991-93.

He currently operates GALLAGHER & ASSOCIATES, which provides brokered educational and training services to the public and private sector.

Paul was recently appointed to a ten-member Expert Panel of people from different fields of expertise that will advise the Prime Minister's Advisory Council on Science & Technology. The topic is Skill Needs for Canada in a Knowledge Economy.

We recently interviewed Paul for the Literacy B.C. Newsletter.

What drives your interest in education and literacy?

I have spent a long time working in post-secondary education in Canada and in B.C. We have done an excellent job here in many ways. But those we have done the least for -- the people lacking in literacy skills, the disadvantaged, including those with learning disabilities -- are not being served as well by the system as others.

I like to think that through our organization, and the other literacy providers, we can serve as champions for the less-advantaged -- that's what we're here to do.

We have a Canada where opportunity is relatively equal -- but we're not there yet. It is so important to provide whatever help we can. That's what drives me.

Though we'll never be able to have it all -- we need a better distribution of resources, one that is more equitable. We need to research a lot of issues, for example, the role of parents in their choice of schooling for their children. I am interested in making it possible for all young people to have more choice.

We have to find new ways of engaging people and we need to spend money on determining how best to do this.

continued on page 17

"Gallagher" continued from page 16

What is the role of the Literacy B.C. board, in your view?

I view the board as essentially serving as a support mechanism and a sounding board for [Executive Director] Linda Mitchell and other members of the literacy community. One among equals -- that's how we operate. We don't direct Literacy B.C.'s activities -- we don't have the expertise. Our mandate is to bring each of our regional perspectives together. In approaching my job, I ask, "What should I do? How can I provide support?" We're an unconventional board operating in an unconventional situation.

An important objective is to ensure that Literacy B.C.'s views on policy will be heard and acted upon. We are trying to influence public opinion through the decision-makers in government. The idea is to present a coherent strategy to bring about change -- to establish our credibility with government.

(He cites the recent decision by the B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology to remove tuition fees for adult basic education (ABE) at all public post-secondary institutions as an example.)

I give full credit to the Minister and the government for doing that. However, Literacy B.C. had been advocating this change for a long time....We were, informally, notified in advance of the announcement because I think it is recognized that we are the champions for literacy learners. ☐

Family Literacy: Literacy for Life

Friday, October 23
Esquimalt Senior Secondary School

The program will cover all aspects of family literacy, including the perspective of the adult learner. Highlights:

- ☐ community literacy programs
- ☐ school literacy programs
- ☐ children's storytellers
- ☐ literacy and technology
- ☐ pre-school programs
- ☐ reading strategies for teachers and parents

Parents, teachers and community literacy workers welcome.

co-hosted by the Victoria READ Society and the International Reading Association

For more information, contact:
Melanie Austin (250) 388-7225
email: mdaustin@readsociety.bc.ca

Message from Volunteer Vancouver

Volunteer Vancouver, and other volunteer centres across B.C., exist to offer you support in involving the community in your program. Volunteer Vancouver, for example, can help you find volunteers, build your skills through volunteer management training, and keep you on top of issues with book loans and sales. Visit Volunteer Vancouver's website at **www.vancouver,volunteer.ca or call (604) 875-9144** to learn how you can develop a satisfying and meaningful volunteer program.

Workforce Resources

Interested in Work Skills Analysis Tools? If so, you'll want to check out these two new resources. They were produced as part of a project to assist would-be consumers to make an informed choice between commercially available tools for work skills profiling, assessment and gap analysis.

The project was hosted by the B.C. Forestry Continuing Studies Network, funded by the National Literacy Secretariat of Human Resources Development Canada and conducted by Dr. Kathryn Barker of FuturEd.

What to Ask When Choosing Work Skills Analysis Tools.

This guide is designed to help would-be consumers make an informed choice between commercially available work skills analysis tools. Not intended to evaluate specific products and services, the guide simply presents a framework for decision-making. Primarily intended for trainers, education program planners and human resources personnel, the guide lists a series of 38 questions would-be consumers willwant to ask of each product or service they are considering, and another seven questions about their own organization's resources and needs.

Comparing Work Skills Analysis Tools -- Project Report

This comparative overview provides information on nine commercially available tools that are available for work skills profiling, assessment and gap analysis.

Concise and informative, the report summarizes suppliers' answers to ten clusters of questions (38 questions in all) consumers might ask before choosing a work skills analysis tool.

Borrow from Literacy B.C. or order from:

B.C. Forestry Continuing Studies Network
Central Interior Delivery Service
The University College of the Cariboo
Box 3010
Kamloops, B.C. V2C 5N3
Phone: (250) 371-5540
Fax: (250) 3 71-5574

Sound Smart -- 101 Ways to Turn a Phrase -- the B.C. book that sold in 7-Eleven stores this summer with partial proceeds donated to Literacy B.C. -- is now available in Save-on Foods and Overwaitea bookstores.

Robert S. Burns, the writer/broadcaster who wrote the pocket-sized guide, has arranged for participating stores to carry the book through to the end of December, with one dollar from each sale going to Literacy B.C. **Sound Smart**, a collection of 101 influential words and power phrases chosen by Burns for a variety of occasions, is part educational tool, part reference guide and "an entertaining satire on the English language."

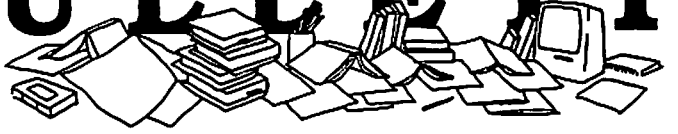
About 75 stores in B.C. and Alberta carry the book.

NEW RESOURCES UPDATE

Here's what's new in our resource collection

THE LITERACY MATERIALS

BULLETIN



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Spring 1998

Don't forget that you can borrow from Literacy B.C. any materials reviewed in the latest issue of the Literacy Materials Bulletin. The spring 1998 issue includes reviews of:

- Roast Moose and Rosaries
- Help Yourself: How to take advantage of your learning styles
- Fundamental Level Science Books
- Basic Fractions and Basic Decimals
- Ideas, Activities and Exercises for Fundamental Level English
- Novels for Adult Learners: Crocodiles and Rivers, Frozen Tears, The Scowling Frog, The Buckle, Three Wise Men, The Mailbox
- Lost in the Barrens
- Listen to the Loon: An Intermediate Listening Program
- Straight Forward Math Series: Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division, Mastery Tests, Fractions, Advanced Fractions, Advanced Decimals, Pre-Algebra Book 1 and Book 2
- Making Connections: Literacy and EAL Curriculum from a Feminist Perspective
- Animals, Animals, Animals - a video compilation of five short films: Beluga Baby, Wolf Pack, All About Bears, Wild in the City, Bighorn

... from U.S. publisher Jossey-Bass:

- Designing and conducting survey research: a comprehensive guide. Louis M. Rea, Richard A. Parker. 1997.

- Learning in adulthood: a comprehensive guide. Sharan B. Merriam, Rosemary S. Caffarella. 1991.

- Learning to listen, learning to teach: the power of dialogue in educating adults. Jane Vella. 1994.

- Qualitative research and case study applications in education Sharan B. Merriam. 1998.

NEW RESOURCES UPDATE

- How to assess your nonprofit organization with Peter Drucker's five most important questions: user guide for boards, staff, volunteers, and facilitators. 1993.
- Workplace learning: debating five critical questions of theory and practice Robert W. Rowden, ed. 1996.
- Mentoring: new strategies and challenges. Michael W. Galbraith, Norman H. Cohen, editors. 1995.
- Rethinking literacy education: the critical need for practice-based change B. Allan Quigley. 1997.
- A community-based approach to literacy programs: taking learners' lives into account. Peggy A. Sissel, ed. 1996.
- Mistakes made and lessons learned: overcoming obstacles to successful program planning. Thomas J. Sork, ed. 1991.
- Classroom research: implementing the scholarship of teaching. K. Patricia Cross, Mimi Harris Steadman. 1996.
- Workplace learning. W. Franklin Spikes, ed. 1995.

More new books... available on loan

- **Partners in Learning: A win-win idea.** 32 min video. 1998. University College of the Fraser Valley. Portrays tutoring program which pairs at-risk reading-disabled adolescents at alternate schools in Abbotsford and Mission with trained, pre-release inmates from Ferndale Institution. (a B.C. literacy cost-shared project).
- **Adult Basic Education Communications: Six Modules.** Ministry of Education, Skills and Training and the Centre for Curriculum, Transfer and Technology.
- **Profiles of Welfare: Myths and Realities** (1998). National Council of Welfare.

We have extra copies of **Learning About the Law, B.C.'s Laws and Legal System, 8th edition,** March 1998. The People's Law School.